Improving U.S. Government Export License Automation Systems

Issue Description: The enhancement of communications and data exchange connectivity between DoD and State.

State currently reviews some 45,000 cases, some 12,000 of which are reviewed by the Department of Defense for national security concerns. Currently State provides certain data elements to DoD that are the basis for their data entry system. Defense, using a classified connectivity (FORDIS), has until recently provided State the ability to print copies of their recommendations. Defense will now extract their unclassified positions from their FORDlS system and transmit them electronically to a State server, which will again permit State to print copies of their positions. In any instance, when the recommendation is classified, DoD will transmit these positions via a SIPERNET system..

Defense has agreed to provide their recommendations to State in an electronic form and State will provide to DoD the final State determination in the same form.

State has for approximately six years provided industry the ability to transmit applications (DSP-5, DSP-73 and DSP-61) electronically through use of a bulletin board system or through the INTERNET. Some 50% of the applications received in State are received via these systems. State's electronic application submission uses continuation sheets, which have been deemed by DoD to lack structure that they need to create a data base for their internal use. State and DoD will work to determine how this matter can be resolved.

State currently receives technical and supporting documentation from Industry in hard copy and distributes them to USG reviewing agencies. State and DoD agree that this process can be automated for those cases that are to be reviewed in the interagency process while not affecting small exporters or those applications that require only limited background or attachments and for which such automation might only serve to slow down the process. Utilizing improved secure communications, exporters will be encouraged to submit case data and technical supporting documentation electronically.

State and DoD agree that additional requests for approval can be automated. As an example, the agreement coordination between State and Defense is entirely paper-based. Automation of these requests will improve the process and reduce the time necessary to render a determination.